

Soviet Scholars

Believe in

Bigfoot

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Is North America's "Bigfoot" real? Most scientists scoff at the notion for lack of tangible evidence, but a team of Soviet researchers is convinced of the creature's existence — based on studies of a 10-year-old California film.

The Russians' findings were the hit of a recent academic conference on "humanoid monsters" sponsored by the University of British Columbia in Canada.

The three-day symposium, which drew scholars and scientists from throughout Canada and the United States, was organized to open science's door to serious study of such phenomena.

The scientists discussed alleged physical evidence and sightings, and the "historical," psychological, cultural, and social dimensions which also bear investigation.

Of the controversial film footage shot by Roger Patterson on a remote creekbed in Northern California, the creature portrayed was "too apelike to be human and too human-like to be simian," Dimitri Bayanov, head of humanoid research at the Darwin Museum in Moscow, declared in a paper submitted to the conference.

Bayanov's conclusion was based on analysis of the creature's unusual gait, and the way certain leg muscles bulged and knotted as it walked; by its elongated heel structure and other anatomical differences that separated it from both man and other primates, Bayanov said.

Taking obvious delight in the pronouncement, Bayanov said his team's success in authenticating the film was "a triumph of broad-

mindfulness over narrow-mindedness, which serves a world in need of such success."

Russian scientist reportedly have conducted systematic research of presumably humanoid remains for more than two decades. In another paper the Russians discussed a kindred spirit of Bigfoot, the Almas, a Neanderthal they believed to roam the Caucasus mountains of the Soviet Union.

Among other Bigfoot evidence presented and discussed were unusual vocalizations said to have been tape-recorded in a remote High Sierra camp three years ago. According to R. Lynn Kirlin, electrical engineering professor at the University of Wyoming, the results of a year-long computer study of the sounds "indicate a speaker, or speakers, of physical size larger than an average adult male."

Kirlin said he based his conclusion on a comparison of voice pitch and vocal tract length with those of an average tall man. Then, using human proportions, he theorized that the unknown speakers would range in height from 6'4 to 8'2".

"If Bigfoot is actually proven to exist, the vocalizations on these tapes may well be of great anthropological value, being a unique observance of the Bigfoot in his natural environment," Kirlin said.

A new film of an alleged Bigfoot was shown by Frank White, a Seattle resident, who claimed to have photographed the sequence on Mt. Baker last fall while picnicking there with his wife.

Asked exactly what he was eating at the time of the sighting, the retired government worker smiled shyly and haltingly replied: "I hate to say it, but I think it was baloney."